

TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager  
FROM: Brian Shull, Economic Development Director  
DATE: December 28, 2016  
RE: Northend Greenway Shared Use Path with Blacks Run Stream Restoration

**Summary:**

The City has received an Unsolicited PPEA Proposal to construct a significant section of the proposed Northend Greenway Shared Use Path combined with Blacks Run Stream Restoration improvements producing both nutrient and sediment reduction. City staff has performed a preliminary review of the project proposal submitted by the team of Momentum Earthworks, LLC, Ecosystem Services, LLC and their sub-consultant Gay and Neel, Inc. Both components of this proposal are included in the City's Capital Improvement Plan and have funding allocated for implementation. Staff is comfortable with its initial review findings and therefore requests Council's approval to solicit competing proposals under the City's adopted PPEA Procedures.

**Background:**

A proposed shared use path linking the Parkview area of northern Harrisonburg with the downtown central business district, now labeled the Northend Greenway, has been in the idea stage for over a decade and has been in planning stages for more than 5 years. This Greenway was amended into the City's adopted Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan in 2011. An active citizens group known as The Northend Greenway, which is an initiative of New Community Project Harrisonburg, has been promoting this project since 2010. The group is continuing fundraising efforts to provide for certain amenities along the Shared Use Path.

**Key Issues:**

The route of the proposed Shared Use Path includes mostly privately-owned property. Therefore, this project is a prime candidate for a public-private partnership.

The City is mandated to achieve significant nutrient and sediment reductions in accordance with its MS4 permit and its TMDL action plan. This PPEA proposal offers the City an opportunity to reduce phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment to help it get closer to mandated benchmarks.

This proposal addresses two important goals that the City of Harrisonburg hopes to achieve combined within one project.

**Environmental Impact:**

The proposed Northend Greenway project will have minor environmental impacts. The proposing project team seeks to avoid and minimize impacts to nontidal wetlands and waters of the US and will also design and install proper erosion and sediment controls throughout the project area during construction. Strict adherence to erosion and sediment control measures and stormwater permit requirements will seek to mitigate these impacts. The Shared Use Path will provide citizens with opportunities to bike and walk to destinations instead of driving, and the Blacks Run Stream Restoration improvements will improve local water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment loads.

**Fiscal Impact:**

City Council previously allocated \$600,000 of capital funds for the development of the Northend Greenway Shared Use Path project. An additional \$600,000 of matching funds has been provided by VDOT for this project through its Revenue Sharing Program for the Shared Used Path Project. City staff is operating under the direction that \$1.2 million is the maximum available for this project at this time.

The City of Harrisonburg has also budgeted funding for the Blacks Run Stream Restoration identified in this proposal. The City's FY16-17 Capital Budget includes \$859,000 to be utilized for this project. An additional \$859,000 is anticipated to be available in the FY17-18 Capital Budget. This revenue source could be utilized in order to complete the scope of the project contained in this proposal.

**Prior Actions:**

City Council endorsed the concept of a Northend Greenway Shared Use Path in 2011 as part of Harrisonburg's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

**Alternatives:**

- (a) Proceed with further review of this Unsolicited PPEA Proposal and advertise for competing proposals to be submitted to the City
- (b) Choose not to review this Unsolicited Proposal any further
- (c) Seek to develop Northend Greenway Shared Use Path solely as a public project and seek to meet MS4 and TMDL mandated benchmarks through other public means.

**Community Engagement:**

If City Council wishes to proceed with further analysis of this PPEA proposal, City staff will post and advertise a request for competing proposals to be submitted to the City. The public portion of the proposal submitted by Momentum Earthworks, LLC, Ecosystem Services, LLC and Gay and Neel, Inc will then be made available for public review for at least 45 days.

**Recommendation:**

City staff recommends Alternative A -- that Council authorize continued review of the Unsolicited PPEA Proposal received from Momentum Earthworks, LLC, Ecosystem Services, LLC and Gay and Neel, Inc. In

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addition, City staff requests that Council post and advertise a request for competing proposals for the development of a Northend Greenway Shared Use Path with Blacks Run Stream Restoration Improvements.

**Attachments:**

Cover Letter from Unsolicited Proposal

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

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